

TO THIS END IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT, NOTWITHSTANDING THE DELICATE POLITICAL AND SOVEREIGNTY ISSUES INVOLVED, THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT TAKE THE HIGH GROUND AND MAKE WHATEVER ARRANGEMENTS ARE NECESSARY TO ENSURE THE SAFE PASSAGE OF FOOD. HOWEVER, THE DETERMINATION OF THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT TO RECAPTURE MASSAWA AT ALL COSTS PUTS SOME SHADOW ON THAT OPTION.

I DISCUSSED THESE MATTERS IN ROME WITH MINISTER LENOCI OF THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT AND WITH THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME.

IN WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA, LAST WEEK, I ASSURED THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL OF CANADA'S SUPPORT FOR AN INCREASED UN INVOLVEMENT IN THE RELIEF EFFORTS AND THE SEARCH FOR PEACE.

MR. SPEAKER, WE SHOULD NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE DIFFICULTIES WE FACE.

ON THE ONE HAND, REBEL GROUPS SENSE A FINAL VICTORY, WHILE ON THE OTHER, AN EMBATTLED GOVERNMENT STRUGGLES TO PRESERVE THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ETHIOPIA.

AND YET, IT IS ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT ONLY A JUST AND ENDURING SETTLEMENT OF THE ETHIOPIAN CONFLICT WILL BRING TO AN END THE SUFFERING OF THE PEOPLE OF THAT COUNTRY.